

Catawba County Emergency Medical Services Standard Operating Guidelines

Prisoner Restraint Procedure

These are the procedures that Catawba County Emergency Medical Services will use when dealing with transporting inmates, prisoners, and others being detained by law enforcement agencies

Law Enforcement Agencies (at the scene of an incident)

- Catawba County Emergency Medical Services will respond to the scene of any incident at the request of a law enforcement agency.
- Upon arrival at the scene of an incident where a law enforcement officer is detaining a patient, EMS personnel should determine if the patient is under arrest.
 - If the patient has not been arrested; the patient will be assessed, treated, and transported following the Catawba County Emergency Medical Services System's Patient Care Policies and Protocols.
 - If the patient is under arrest; the patient will be assessed, treated, and transported following the Catawba County Emergency Medical Services System's Patient Care Policies and Protocols.
- In addition to following the Patient Care Policies and Protocols, the law enforcement officer must either:
 - accompany the patient to the hospital (inside the ambulance), or
 - secure the patient to the EMS stretcher utilizing a single flexible cuff on each extremity and then follow the ambulance to the hospital in his / her patrol car.
- EMS personnel must inform the law enforcement officer of the position in which the patient should be secured. EMS personnel may assist the officer if requested.

Catawba County Sheriff's Department (transport vehicles and Catawba County Justice Center)

- Catawba County Emergency Medical Services will respond to the scene of any incident involving a Catawba County Sheriff's Department Transport Vehicle (while inside Catawba County) and to the Magistrate's Office, Detention Facility, or Court Rooms located inside the Catawba County Justice Center.
- Upon arrival at the scene, EMS personnel should determine if the patient is under arrest.
 - If the patient is not under arrest; the patient will be assessed, treated, and transported following the Catawba County Emergency Medical Services System's Patient Care Policies and Protocols.
 - If the patient has been arrested; the patient will be assessed, treated, and transported following the Catawba County Emergency Medical Services System's Patient Care Policies and Protocols.
- In addition to following the Patient Care Policies and Protocols, the responsible law enforcement officer must either:

- accompany the patient to the hospital (inside the ambulance), or
- secure the patient to the EMS stretcher utilizing a single flexible cuff on each extremity and then follow the ambulance to the hospital in his / her patrol car.
- EMS personnel must inform the law enforcement officer of the position in which the patient should be secured. EMS personnel may assist the officer if requested.

North Carolina Department of Corrections (worker crews and Prison Camp Road facility)

- Catawba County Emergency Medical Services will respond to the scene (while inside Catawba County) of any incident involving an inmate of the North Carolina Department of Correction.
 - The inmate will be assessed, treated, and transported following the Catawba County Emergency Medical Services System's Patient Care Policies and Protocols.
- In addition to following the Patient Care Policies and Protocols the responsible correction officer must:
 - accompany the patient to the hospital (inside the ambulance), or
 - secure the patient to the EMS stretcher utilizing a single flexible cuff on each extremity and then follow the ambulance to the hospital in his / her patrol car.
- EMS personnel must inform the law enforcement officer of the position in which the patient should be secured. EMS personnel may assist the officer if requested.

Prisoner Restraint Guidelines

- The patient must be restrained in a supine or left lateral recumbent position.
- The restraints must not interfere with the assessment, treatment, or transportation of the patient.
- The patient's extremities will be restrained utilizing single flexible cuff.
 - The patient's right upper extremity will be secured to the top of the stretcher, above the patient's head. (This cuff should be positioned so that the patient can be rolled to his / her left side if necessary.)
 - The patient's left upper extremity will be secured to the left side of the stretcher, near the patient's hip.
 - The patient's right lower extremity will be secured to the right side of the stretcher near the carriage release mechanism.
 - The patient's left lower extremity will be secured to the left side of the stretcher opposite of the carriage release mechanism.
- The patient's lower extremities and hips may be restrained utilizing sheets, blankets and tape, if necessary.
- The patient's entire body may be restrained utilizing full spinal immobilization. (i.e., long spine board, towel rolls, cervical collar, and straps) If the patient is placed in full spinal immobilization the extremities will also be secured using single flexible cuffs.

- The patient's right upper extremity will be secured to the right side of the long spine board near the patient's right hip.
- The patient's left upper extremity will be secured to the left side of the long spine board near the patient's left hip.
- The patient's right lower extremity will be secured to the right side of the long spine board near the tapered end of the board.
- The patient's left lower extremity will be secured to the left side of the long spine board near the tapered end of the board.
- *Should the need arise to release the patient during transport, the ambulance will stop and the "following" law enforcement officer should enter the patient compartment to assist.*
- *Should the ambulance be involved in a motor vehicle crash or otherwise become unsafe, then the patient will either:*
 - *be unloaded from the ambulance while still restrained to the stretcher, or*
 - *be released from all restraints and removed from the ambulance, if the stretcher can not be removed from the ambulance safely.*